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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

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Draft report

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007
Part two: biennial programme plan

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 21
Palestine refugees

1. At its 13th meeting, on 17 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 21, Palestine refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 21)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 21 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. The importance of the peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue and the settlement of the Middle East question were expressed.

4. Support was expressed for the biennial programme plan under programme 21, Palestine refugees. The high quality of work of the programme was commended. The critical role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in providing assistance to 4.1 million registered Palestinian refugees and in fostering stability in a troubled region was noted. The role of UNRWA in human empowerment was also commended, in particular considering the severe financial constraints and difficult conditions in the

West Bank and Gaza. The valuable support of host countries was recognized. The view was expressed that the existence of UNRWA is temporary in nature, pending the final resolution of the Palestinian issue. Questions were raised concerning the definition of "eligible refugees", as referred to in paragraph 21.4 of the programme and expected accomplishment (a) of subprogramme 3.

5. Questions were raised concerning the adequacy of funding and possible setbacks in implementing the programme due to a decline in contributions. UNRWA was encouraged to broaden its donor base, especially among Arab countries. All countries with the capacity to do so were encouraged to make a cash or in-kind contribution to UNRWA to allow the chronically under-funded agency to fully fund both its regular and emergency programmes.

6. The view was expressed that the work of UNRWA lent itself to results-based budgeting, and that indicators of achievement were more specific and very acceptable. Note was taken of the last sentence of paragraph 21.3 of the programme, which read: "Should the peace talks resume and lead to a settlement, the agency may be asked to assume new tasks." The question was raised of how the agency's five year strategic plan (2004-2008), as referred to in paragraph 21.5 of the programme, had been linked to the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 currently under consideration.

7. Support was expressed for the education programme, in particular efforts to teach a culture of peace and dialogue. Its health programme was also commended. Its relief and social services, particularly for children and the disabled, were also commended. Its microenterprise programme, particularly for women, was encouraged.

8. Concern was expressed that the programme did not reflect all legislative mandates given to UNRWA. It was emphasized that General Assembly resolution 3331B (XXIX) should have been reflected in the programme as it was contained in the medium-term plan for 2002-2005.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 21, Palestine refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 21.3

Delete the last sentence.

Paragraph 21.5

The penultimate sentence should read: "In each subprogramme area, including general education, technical and vocational educational training, maternal and child health care, disease prevention, poverty alleviation and microfinance, the Agency has sought to achieve programme results consistent with the targets and commitments established by the United Nations system, such as the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations

Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992."

At the end of the final sentence, add the following words: "in its five areas of operation, including education services, health services, relief and social services, and income-generating programmes, and will continue to undertake projects to improve infrastructure and socio-economic conditions".

Subprogramme 1

In the objective of the organization, replace the words "Palestine refugee children and youth" with the words "Palestinian refugees, in particular children and youth".

Revise expected accomplishment (a) to read: "Improve the quality of education provided to the Palestinian refugee population at all levels and increase the coverage."

Paragraph 21.6

Add the following new subparagraph: "(f) Providing education services to Palestinian refugees in accordance with the needs of the refugees and their identity and cultural heritage and consistent with the standards of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization".

Subprogramme 2

Renumber indicator of achievement (a) to read (a) (i).

Add the following new indicator of achievement: "(a) (ii) Percentage of pregnant women registered with health care".

At the end of expected accomplishment of the Secretariat (c), add the words "and improvement of safe indoor water facilities".

Renumber indicator of achievement (c) to read (c) (i).

Add the following new indicator of achievement: "(c) (ii) Number of camps provided with safe indoor water facilities".

Add the following new expected accomplishment of the Secretariat: "(e) Elimination of malnutrition".

Add the following new indicator of achievement: "(e) Percentage of refugees with malnutrition".

Add the following new expected accomplishment: "(e) Reduction of nutritional disorders".

Add the following new indicator of achievement: "(e) (i) Decrease in anaemia prevalence among pregnant women and pre-school children".

Add the following new indicator of achievement: "(e) (ii) Decrease in prevalence of acute malnutrition among pre-school children".

Paragraph 21.7

Add the following new subparagraph: "(e) Improving the efficiency of distribution of food aid".

Legislative mandates

Add the following mandate:
General Assembly resolution 3331B (XXIX) of 17 December 1974